

AXLE LUBRICANT ISOLATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A drive axle assembly is provided that includes an axle housing that supports axle shafts. The axle housing also typically includes a bearing cage secured to the main axle housing portion for supporting a drive shaft that is arranged transverse to the axle shafts. A differential is arranged within the axle housing and couples the driven shafts to the axle shafts. A bearing assembly supports the driven shaft within the bearing cage. A seal is arranged between the driven shaft and the bearing cage, preferably between the cone and the bearing cage. The seal is adjacent to the bearing assembly and separates the axle housing into first and second cavities in which the bearing assembly is arranged in the first cavity and the differential is arranged in the second cavity. Lubricant containing a GL5 or similar additive may be placed in the second cavity to lubricate the differential. Another lubricant without the GL5 additive more suitable for bearings may be placed in the first cavity to lubricate the bearing assembly.